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### THE PAN-PACIFIC SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

As the result of informal conferences and much correspondence, a scientific congress has been organized to meet at Honolulu, August 2 to 20, 1920, under the Chairmanship of Professor Herbert E. Gregory of Yale University, now on leave of absence for scientific work in Hawaii.

The purpose of the congress is to outline scientific problems of the Pacific Ocean region and to suggest methods for their solution; to make a critical inventory of existing knowledge, and to devise plans for future studies. It is anticipated that this congress will formulate for publication a program of research which will serve as a guide for cooperative work for individuals, institutions and governmental agencies.

Representative scientific men from the countries whose interests in whole or in part center in the Pacific will be present, and a number of men whose researches demand a knowledge of the natural history of the Pacific islands and shore lands have expressed their intention to attend.

The program of the conference is in the hands of the Committee on Pacific Exploration of the National Research Council, which consists of the following members: John C. Merriam, University of California, chairman; Wm. Bowie, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; R. A. Daly, Harvard University; William M. Davis, Harvard University; Barton W. Evermann, California Academy of Science; Herbert E. Gregory, Yale University; E. B. Mathews, National Research Council; George F. McEwen, Scripps Institute; Alfred G. Mayor, Carnegie Institution; William E. Ritter, Scripps Institute.

The meetings will be arranged to place emphasis on the following topics: Research desirable to inaugurate; projects described in considerable detail with reference to their significance, and their bearing on other fields of study. Investigations designed to lay the foundation for a higher utilization of the economic resources of the Pacific may be included. Methods of cooperation with a view to eliminating unnecessary duplication of money and energy. The best use of the funds now available and the source of further endowments.

In addition to those maintained by the Federal and Territorial governments, the active scientific organizations of Hawaii include the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum of Polynesian Ethnology and Natural History, the College of Hawaii, the Sugar Planters' Experiment Station, The Marine Aquarium and the Volcano Observatory. Between Honolulu and San Francisco regular sailings are maintained by four steamship companies, and established routes bring Hawaii into connection with Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, China and Japan. In order to procure desirable accommodations, reservations for both outward and return passage should be made at an early date.

### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Dr. John Nelson Stockwell, of Cleveland, known for his contributions to mathematical astronomy; of Marvin Hendrix Stacy, professor of civil engineering and dean at the University of North Carolina; of Dr. Alexander Ferguson, professor of pathology in the School of Medicine, Cairo, and of Frederick Kolpin Ravn, professor of plant pathology in the Royal Agricultural College of Denmark.